

THE SPARROW



This very small bird is found throughout the world. There are many different species of sparrow. There are about fifty different species of sparrows living in North and South America. Sparrows are only about four to six inches in length. Many people appreciate their beautiful song.

Sparrows prefer to build their nests in low places. Their nests are usually built on the ground, clumps of grass, low trees, and low bushes. In cities, they build their nests in building nooks and other holes. They rarely build their nests in high places.

Sparrows build their nests out of twigs, grasses, and plant fibers. Their nests are usually small and well-built structures.

Female sparrows lay four to six eggs at a time. The eggs are white with reddish-brown spots. The eggs hatch within eleven to fourteen days. Both the male and female parents care for the young. Insects are fed to their young after hatching.

Young sparrows are ready to leave the nest eight to ten days after hatching.

The large feet of the sparrow are used for scratching seeds. Adult sparrows mainly eat seeds.

Sparrows can be found almost anywhere there are humans. Some species of sparrows prefer to live in deserts, prairies, swamps, marshes, forests, and other bushy areas. Some sparrows in northern North America will migrate south in winter, although most stay in one area year-round. The older adult males of the migrating sparrows usually spend their winters near their breeding area. Many people throughout the world enjoy these delightful birds.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

1. The chief food for adult sparrows is ____.

- a. seeds
- b. nuts
- c. insects
- d. eggs of other birds

NAME _____ DATE _____

2. Where do sparrows live?
 - a. throughout the world
 - b. wherever there are humans
 - c. in cities and in the country
 - d. all of the above

3. The word *species* means _____.
 - a. adult
 - b. kinds
 - c. nests
 - d. foods

4. Which of the following IS true?
 - a. All sparrows migrate in winter.
 - b. Young sparrows are able to leave the nest about twenty days after hatching.
 - c. Sparrows rarely build their nests in high places.
 - d. Sparrows are some of the largest birds found in North and South America.

5. The care of the young sparrows _____.
 - a. is mainly done by the father
 - b. is mainly done by the mother
 - c. is shared by both parents
 - d. none of these

6. The second paragraph of this passage mainly discusses _____.
 - a. where sparrows are found
 - b. the diet of the sparrow
 - c. the nests of the sparrow
 - d. migration of sparrows

7. The nests of Sparrows are _____.
 - a. usually built in low places
 - b. built out of twigs, plant fibers, and grasses
 - c. small, well-built structures
 - d. all of these

NAME _____ DATE _____

ANSWERS

1. a
2. d
3. b
4. c
5. c
6. c
7. d